REMARKS

Applicants' undersigned counsel is grateful for the Examiner's assistance in confirming on March 18, 2004 and April 5, 2004 that the claims as presented and designated above reflect the current status and numbering of the pending claims in this application in light of the instant Response.

Applicants' also acknowledge and are grateful for the Examiner's confirmation that: (1) the Office Action of February 26, 2004 has been vacated; (2) the July 22, 2003 Preliminary Amendment filed in the instant application has been entered; and (3) that the dependency of claims 17-22 has been corrected to reflect the current numbering of the pending claims as listed above.

Claims 9-14 are objected to because they depend from cancelled claims 1-8. Applicants hereby cancel pending claims 9-14.

In the March 10, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner entered a restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C.§ 121 and required that the Applicants elect one of the following six groups of claims for continued prosecution: (1) one of Groups (I)-(IV)(each of which contain claims 9-14, which in turn differ in the antibody used in the method of treatment); (2) Group (V) (which contains claims 15-22); and Group (VI)(which contains claim 23). The claims of Groups (I)-(IV) have been cancelled by this Response.

In response to this restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect with traverse the claims of Group (V) (claims 15-22) for continued prosecution in this application. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the nonelected claim of Group VI (claim 23) in a divisional application.

Respectfully submitted,

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